MSP for wheat and pulses

1942. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to substantially increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat and pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has announced/fixed the Minimum Support Prices of rabi crops, including wheat, gram and masur (lentil), for 2007-08 season on 9th October, 2007, while the MSPs of kharif crops, including arhar (tur), moong and urad, of 2007-08 season were announced/fixed on 17th May, 2007. The MSPs of wheat and pulses for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in the table below:

(*Rs. Per quintal*)

Crop	2006-07	2007-08
Wheat	750*	1000
Gram	1445	1600
Masur (Lentil)	1545	1700
Arhar (Tur)	1410	1550 **
Moong	1520	1700 **
Urad	1520	1700 **

*An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal was payable over and above the MSP.

**A bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal is payable over and above the MSP.

Use of chemical fertilizers

†1943. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of chemical fertilizers such as ammonium nitrate, potassium sulphate and super phosphate has increased over 150-fold over past 50 years;

(b) whether over use of these fertilizers has led to fall in per-hectare agriculture production;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and efforts being made by Government to overcome it; and

(d) the measures being taken to promote bio-fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Ammonium Nitrate is not included in Schedule I Part A of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 and as such is not a chemical fertilizer. In respect of Potassium Sulphate and Super Phosphate the increase in use is not as significant as given in part (a) of the Question.

(b) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Under the Scheme "National Project of Organic Farming", Government is promoting the production and use of bio-fertilizers by providing financial assistance for setting up of bio-fertilizers production units and on promoting bio-fertilizers.

Huge loss of cereal production due to climate change

1944. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge loss of cereal production due to climate change;

(b) if so, whether the ICAR has taken up any study to assess the loss of cereal production due to climate change;

(c) if so, the percentage of decline in the last three years and in the coming decade;

(d) the details of cereals that are going to be worst affected due to climate change; and

(e) what plans his Ministry has to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. There is considerable uncertainty about the magnitude of loss, however, preliminary studies suggest that loss in cereal production due to climate change could be 5 to 40% by the end of 2100 AD.

(b) ICAR is studying the possible impact of climate change on cereal production through Network Project on "Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change" at different ICAR Institutes.

(c) There is no direct analysis of production decline in the last few years due to climatic change/variability. However, it is well known that increased temperature in February and March have caused some production decline in recent years.

(d) Wheat is likely to be more affected due to climate change.

(e) During Tenth plan period ICAR has initiated a Network Project on "Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change" at different ICAR Institutes/State Agricultural Universities. Emphasis has also been given during XI plan period to strengthen the existing institutional network to cope with the challenges posed by climate change.

Need to import rice

1945. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of rice would not be able to meet domestic needs and that the country may have to resort to import of rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the production of wheat is sufficient to meet requirement of those rice eaters switching to wheat;

(d) if not, the steps being taken to ensure self-sufficiency in rice and wheat; and